

P.R.O. Region 5



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1954

POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. Outram, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1954

together with

THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)



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Wyllyotts Manor,
Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar.

1st July, 1955.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Report on the health of the Potters Bar Urban District for the year 1954. It has been compiled in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health.

In previous years the Birth and Death Rates have been shown in their "crude" form, but these figures do not take into account the variations which occur in sex and age distribution between different areas. The Registrar General issues a Comparability Factor for each district to correct anomalies in sex and age distribution, and when this Factor is applied to crude rates, standardised rates result which can be compared with rates for other districts. This year the standardised rates are given in addition to the crude rates.

The Vital Statistics generally are very satisfactory, and in particular it is most encouraging to note the continued decrease in the Infantile Mortality Rate.

Infectious Disease notifications were very low—totals being the lowest recorded since Measles and Whooping Cough became compulsorily notifiable in 1941, and once more there was no case of Food Poisoning. As I said last year, this, I think, is a reflection of the excellent work done by the department in the supervision of food shops and other establishments, such as canteens, etc., in the district, but it should be noted that routine work of this nature and similar duties must diminish in view of the additional work now falling on the department from the new Housing Act and the revival of Slum Clearance work. It is also undoubtedly true that more will come from the new Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, and the legislation which is to be introduced in connection with the Government's Clean Air policy and proposals regarding the health and welfare of non-industrial workers.

I would like once more to record my appreciation of the efficient and smooth running organisation of the department by Mr. Rooley, ably assisted by Mr. Rixson, and also the cheerful co-operation by all other members of the staff.

Your obedient servant,

M. I. OUTRAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE AREA

Area	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1954—Registrar General's Estimate)	17,620
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1954)	5,286
Rateable Value (31st March, 1954)	£180,300
Product of a penny rate (31st March, 1954)	£720

Vital Statistics

Birth-rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	14.0
Birth-rate (corrected) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	13.4
Birth-rate (corrected) per 1,000 for England and Wales	15.2
Birth-rate (corrected) per 1,000 for Middlesex	12.7
Death-rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	7.4
Death-rate (corrected) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	8.3
Death-rate (corrected) per 1,000 for England and Wales	11.3
Death-rate (corrected) per 1,000 for Middlesex	9.9
Still Births per 1,000 total births (live and still)	19.8

Infantile Mortality (deaths of children under one year of age)

Death-rate per 1,000 live births	12.1
Death-rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	25.5
Death-rate per 1,000 live births for Middlesex	18.8

Births

1954	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	114	124	238	1	4	5
Illegitimate	4	5	9	—	—	—
TOTALS	118	129	247	1	4	5

Deaths—Causes

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	0	1	1
Tuberculosis—other forms	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
Cancer—all forms and other malignant neoplasms	14	18	32
Leukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	1	1

Deaths—Causes, <i>continued</i>					Male	Female	Total
					14	20	34
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..			..	8	9	17
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	31	18	49
Other Circulatory disease	..			..	0	3	3
Influenza	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	0	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	..			..	2	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..			..	0	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..			..	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
Congenital Malformation	..			..	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Suicide	..	..	..	..	0	1	1
Other causes	..	..	..	..	6	4	10
Totals					71	60	131

Note. No deaths occurred from Measles, Acute Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion.

The following tables shew details of statistics for the years since the formation of the Urban District in 1934.

1. Population, Rateable Value, etc.

Year	Number of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value at 31st March	Population (mid-year)
1921 (Census)	—	£ —	3135
1931 (Census)	—	—	5720
1934	2900	86,007	8570
1935	3240	97,399	9390
1936	3592	105,617	10130
1937	4001	117,166	11160
1938	4392	128,971	12010
1939	4290	140,208	13090
1940	4429	149,456	13660
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1942	4429	153,210	14660
1943	4431	152,572	14290
1944	4432	152,896	14190
1945	4432	153,286	14270
1946	4554	152,792	15350
1947	4724	157,834	16120
1948	4837	162,743	16340
1949	5006	163,376	16540
1950	5028	168,364	16660
1951	5074	169,444	{ 16800(Estimate)
			{ 17163(Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620

2. Death Rate, Birth Rate, etc. (unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1934	8.1	14.0	56.0
1935	5.4	14.2	36.6
1936	9.5	15.7	37.7
1937	7.5	17.7	55.0
1938	6.6	16.3	46.0
1939	9.2	17.8	37.0
1940	10.4	17.6	33.0
1941	*	*	*
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1

* Figures not available

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Committee of the Council deals with most of the matters relating to Public Health. Certain functions of the Department, however, are specifically referred to other Committees—for example, work covered by the Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts is dealt with by the General Purposes Committee, and all housing matters, including action taken under the Housing Acts and Slum Clearance, are the concern of the Housing Committee.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health . . . M. I. Outram, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(part-time)

Senior Sanitary Inspector . . . J. H. Rooley, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector . . . R. W. Rixson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Both Sanitary Inspectors are whole-time officers, are qualified Meat and Food Inspectors, and possess the Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

The Senior Inspector holds the additional appointments of Inspector under the Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts, and Housing Manager. The Additional Inspector is also Assistant Shops Act Inspector. Both are appointed officers under various minor enactments such as the Pet Animals Act, Fireguards Act, etc.

Laboratory Facilities

As in previous years, the laboratory work of the Council was dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, usually at the Hertford or Colindale Laboratories.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:

Milk Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	122
Swimming Pool Water Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Ice-Cream Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	110

Ambulance Facilities

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Middlesex County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. At the present time no vehicles operate from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

Nursing in the Home

Miss M. M. Palmer, of 1 Frowyke Crescent, South Mimms, and Miss P. Savage, of 40 Oakmere Avenue, are registered midwives; Mrs. Davidson, of 255 Mutton Lane, is a Queen's Nursing Sister.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

There are two clinics—one at the Village Hall, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Area Health Committee, and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare and dental services.

Hospitals

There are three hospitals within the district—Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms, and the Pawling Home for Children at Kitts End. The first two are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Road Isolation Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The district is supplied by the Barnet District Water Company, and all houses have a mains supply. Samples from mains in the district were submitted regularly to independent analysts. 68 samples were examined bacteriologically and 37 chemically, and all were found to be satisfactory.

In addition, 1732 samples (1470 bacteriological representative of supply) were examined by the Company's Chemist and Bacteriologist. Of the 1470, 1464 or 99.6% were found to be free from Type 1 Faecal B. Coli in 100 m.l.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

On the sewerage system and the disposal works, the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:—

“ Strict observance of routine inspection and careful maintenance ensured that the soil and surface water systems presented the minimum of problems during the past year.

The very heavy storm of June 12th/13th caused flooding in several parts of the district. In certain instances immediate remedial steps were possible; in others the Council have considered preventative schemes which are either being carried out, prepared or awaiting approval.

Ever-increasing care is necessary in the operation and maintenance of both the Potters Bar and South Mimms Disposal Works. The mounting housing development is being particularly reflected in the working of the Potters Bar Works.”

Public Cleansing

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:—

“ Within the terms of the Council’s Contract, refuse collection has again been satisfactory.

The collection of waste was recommenced in May, there being a market for paper.

Agitation for the discontinuance of the kitchen waste scheme resulted in the Council agreeing to the scheme being terminated on the 6th August.”

Swimming Pool

During 1954 arrangements were continued for the San Marina Swimming Pool to be regularly used by parties of school children from Middlesex and Hertfordshire schools. Supervision of the establishment was maintained, and during the season of use 9 samples of the pool water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act have been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Extracts from the report are:—

(a) Inspections

61 inspections were made in respect of the 51 factories and 16 other premises subject to the provisions of the Act. In 5 premises contraventions of the provisions of the Factories Act were observed, and these were remedied.

(b) Outworkers

Employers’ lists submitted showed that there were 28 premises where homework was carried on. 28 inspections were made.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — Section 47

During 1954 no action was necessary under the provisions of this Section.

Section D—Housing

(See page 13 of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Section E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 14 of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year 1954 were:—

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	23	5	—
Whooping Cough	35	2	—
Measles	8	0	—
Lobar Pneumonia	7	5	1
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Dysentery	4	0	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	—
TOTALS	79	13	1

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-spinal Fever, Encephalitis or Food Poisoning occurred.

The following figures shew notifications of certain Infectious Diseases since 1934 :—

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1934	35	7	0	—*	—*
1935	5	12	0	—*	—*
1936	13	5	0	—*	—*
1937	11	6	2	—*	—*
1938	20	4	1	—*	—*
1939	14	7	3	1*	3*
1940	21	12	0	17*	4*
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35

* Notification of Measles and Whooping Cough not compulsory.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This service is carried out by the Area Medical Officer of Health, and he has kindly supplied the following figures relating to Potters Bar children.

	<i>Diphtheria only</i>	<i>Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Whooping Cough only</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of children im- munised during 1954	49	192	9	250
Number of children who received reinforcing injections during 1954	566	30	—	596

**ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES—1954**

Diseases	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total 1954	Total 1953
Scarlet Fever	2	21	—	—	—	23	22
Whooping Cough	12	21	2	—	—	35	142
Measles	4	3	1	—	—	8	381
Lobar Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	—	—	1	5	1	7	9
Acute Poliomyelitis— Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Dysentery	1	2	1	—	—	4	3
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	19	47	6	6	1	79	561

TUBERCULOSIS—1954

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	—
45-55	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals 1954	7	6	1	—	—	1	—	—
Totals 1953	5	3	—	2	1	1	—	—

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the commencement and end of the year are shewn in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

1954	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	66	69	135	6	4	10	145
Total on register at end of year	71	68	139	7	3	10	149

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The year under review has seen the renewal of Slum Clearance work, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 requires the submission of the Council's proposals in connection with unfit property before August, 1955. Preliminary inspections of properties were commenced, and although this work engaged much of the department's time during the year, the main effect will be felt when the detailed inspections are carried out and the work of demolition and/or reconditioning commences. The new Act also made amendments with regard to Improvement Grants, and there have been very many enquiries on this subject. Although few applications for grants have been formally presented to the Council, many owners seek information from the department, and much time is taken up in interviews and surveys of houses. Most of these enquiries do not develop into formal applications because of a lack of appreciation of the requirements of the Act on the part of landlords.

It will be seen from later pages that routine inspections of food premises and similar duties are considerably less than in previous years, and I am afraid that in 1955 they will diminish even further owing to the growing pressure of other duties.

In last year's Report I referred to the difficulties of drainage in the outlying parts of the district, and I am pleased to report that in 1954 several properties were connected to the public sewers, sometimes over long distances and in the face of considerable practical difficulties.

Problems created by the stationing of caravans are still present, and in the case of one site enforcement action, under the Town and Country Planning Act, was commenced.

Finally, I would like to add my thanks to those of the Medical Officer of Health to all members of the department for their efficient and loyal support and for their efforts to meet the increasing pressure on the department.

Your obedient servant,

J. H. ROOLEY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

During 1954, the Council completed 45 new houses, bringing the total provided since the war to 467 properties, of which 94 are prefabricated bungalows, and 42 Aged Persons' Dwellings (24 maisonettes and 18 bungalows).

By the provision of new dwellings, casual vacancies, etc., 60 families were housed from the waiting list, and in addition 19 units of accommodation were released from requisitioning after the occupants

had been rehoused.

The Walk Halfway House, vacated in 1953, was released from requisitioning during the year, and it was anticipated that Darkes Lodge Halfway House would be available for release in 1955. The two remaining Halfway Houses, Parkside and Sherwood Avenue Hostel, were well used throughout the year.

A review of the waiting list was carried out which resulted in many applications being removed. At the beginning of the year the waiting list had 497 applicants plus 43 Aged Persons, and at the end of the year the corresponding figures were 349 and 66. A separate register for single persons was introduced, and there were 21 outstanding applicants at the end of the year.

In a circular from the Ministry the Council was asked to recommence Slum Clearance work, and a start was therefore made on a survey of the unfit property in the district. This work involved the preliminary inspection of 175 houses during the year.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into force on 30th August required the submission of complete proposals, within one year.

The provisions of this Act made certain amendments in connection with Improvement Grants, and during the year there was a steady receipt of enquiries on this subject, and many properties were visited for the purpose of survey. Some owners did not pursue their initial applications, but where applications were made the Council gave preliminary approval to 9 houses and rejected 4. Part of this Act also dealt with the increase of rents of privately-owned houses, but since any action is initially between landlord and tenant, and only in cases where there is disagreement is the Local Authority approached, there have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair. Very many tenants and landlords, however, have visited the department for advice.

Although much housing work was done during 1954, no formal inspections specifically under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, were carried out. There is therefore no information as required by Article 31 of the Regulations to report.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During 1954 the Potters Bar Hygienic Food Traders' Guild, which had not functioned as a body for a considerable length of time, was officially dissolved.

Some routine work in connection with the inspection of food establishments was carried out during the year, but on a reduced scale, having regard to the commitments of the department in other matters, particularly in connection with housing and slum clearance.

The long awaited amending food legislation did not become law during 1954, and as a result a "marking time" stage was apparent in which traders were, quite naturally, cautious about embarking on

improvement schemes.

Food Poisoning

For the second year in succession no case of food poisoning was notified.

Food Premises

The tables that follow show the number of food premises in the district by type of business, the number registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of Food Premises by Type of Business

Business	(a) No. of food premises	(b) No. of food trades
Catering Establishments:—		
(a) Restaurants, Cafés, etc.	15	28
(b) School Canteens	4	4
(c) Works Canteens	3	3
(d) Hospital and Institution Kitchens	5	5
Bakehouses	5	5
Butchers	8	11
Fishmongers	4	4
Grocers	28	33
Greengrocers	9	14
Milk Distributing Depots	2	2
Bakers and Confectioners	4	8
Mixed shops (2 or more principal trades)	7	—
Public Houses	13	13
Sweet shops	15	21
Ice-cream:—		
Manufacturers and Vendors	—	2
Vendors only	—	31
TOTALS	122	184

Notes: Under (a) are the number of food premises categorised according to the principal business only.

The figures in column (b) show the number of different trades carried on in the district and take into account the more important subsidiary trades carried on at multiple shops and stores.

Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	..	..	..	33
Manufacture of sausages	..	..	..	10
Boiling of hams	..	..	..	8
				—
				51
				—

Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 1

During the year 316 inspections and other visits were made to food establishments. These visits are classified below:—

<i>Type of premises</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Cafés, licensed premises, industrial and school canteens ..	87
Bakehouses	23
Butchers' shops	31
Dairies and other milk premises	17
Ice-cream manufacturers	25
Other food premises	99
Street vendors, hawkers, etc.	34
	<hr/> 316 <hr/>

The following is a summary of recorded improvements effected at food premises as a result of these visits:—

	<i>Number of Premises</i>
Hot water supplies provided	1
Floors repaired or renewed	5
Walls and ceilings repaired, re-faced or redecorated	16
Sinks provided, renewed or repaired	2
Preparation rooms cleansed	5
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	8
Food vehicles improved	1

Ice-Cream

At the close of the year there were 2 premises in which ice-cream was manufactured, and in each case the "Heat treated" process was employed. During the year the only manufacturer of a "Complete Cold Mix" stopped manufacturing ice-cream.

Three new applications for registration for the storage and sale of ice-cream were approved during 1954, and at the end of the year there were 36 premises registered.

As in previous years samples of ice-cream taken in the district were submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale where they were subjected to the prescribed Methylene Blue Test.

During the year 110 samples were submitted for analysis with the following results:—

All manufacturers:—

Satisfactory	$\left\{ \begin{array}{lll} \text{Grade 1} & \dots & 90 \\ \text{Grade 2} & \dots & 16 \end{array} \right\}$	106 or 96%
Unsatisfactory	$\left\{ \begin{array}{lll} \text{Grade 3} & \dots & 1 \\ \text{Grade 4} & \dots & 3 \end{array} \right\}$	4 or 4%

Local manufacturers only:—

Satisfactory	{	Grade 1	..	..	22	} 24 or 86%
		Grade 2	..	..	2	
Unsatisfactory	{	Grade 3	..	..	1	} 4 or 14%
		Grade 4	..	..	3	

Below will be found comparative figures for the last 5 years:—

<i>All manufacturers:—</i>	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Satisfactory					
(Grades 1 and 2)	75%	90%	88%	96%	96%
Unsatisfactory					
(Grades 3 and 4)	25%	10%	12%	4%	4%

Local Manufacturers only:—

Satisfactory					
(Grades 1 and 2)	85%	78%	83%	100%	86%
Unsatisfactory					
(Grades 3 and 4)	15%	22%	17%	Nil	14%
Total Samples taken	185	173	182	181	110

NOTES

In view of the satisfactory bacteriological standard of ice-cream reached over the past few years, the fact that the great majority of ice-cream sold within the district now comes from three well known manufacturers with excellent sample records, and increasing pressure on the resources of the department, it was felt that the number of samples taken could be safely reduced. It will be noted, therefore, that during 1954 the number of samples taken was less than in previous years although no reduction was made in the number of samples taken from local manufacturers.

The over-all picture shows that the standard reached last year was maintained during 1954, but it was a little disappointing to find that all the unsatisfactory samples (i.e. 4 out of 110) were of local manufacture. It should be pointed out, however, that the three Grade 4 samples received represent isolated unsatisfactory results from 3 different retailers, and in no case was a Grade 4 result repeated.

Milk Supply

During 1954, 122 samples of the various designated milks were taken from retailers trading in the district. All satisfied the prescribed tests.

There were 12 Dealers' and 9 Supplementary licences to sell designated milks in force in 1954.

Unsound Food

The table following shews the food which was examined and found to be unfit during the year. Quantities are considerably less than in previous years.

UNSOUND FOOD—1954

Imported Pork	..	..	..	24 lbs.
Corned Beef	..	..	..	17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Jellied Veal	..	..	..	6 lbs.
Imported Beef	..	..	..	86 lbs.
English Pork	..	..	..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
English Beef	..	..	..	42 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	3 stone
Tinned Milk	..	..	..	7 tins
Tinned Fish	..	..	..	1 tin
Crushed Pineapple	..	..	..	74 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Ham	..	..	..	20 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

All condemned food is disposed of either by burning in the furnaces of Clare Hall Hospital, as is the case with all meat and fish, or rendered unusable and disposed of at the Refuse Tip at Cole Green, Hatfield.

RODENT CONTROL, 1954

It was indicated in last year's Annual Report that the number of notifications received during that year (97) and the number of treatments carried out (97) were the highest for a number of years. During the year under review this upward trend has continued, and work in connection with rodent control generally is gradually increasing. During 1954 the number of complaints received numbered 115 compared with last year's 97, and the number of treatments carried out (104) showed a small increase over the 1953 figure.

The types of infestation encountered were similar to previous years, as will be seen in the table that appears in the body of the report.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1954:—

Number of properties inspected as a result of

(a) notification	..	..	..	115	
or (b) otherwise	..	..	..	84	—199

Number of primary surveys carried out at the above properties
—233.

Total number of visits made in connection with rodent control

(a) by Sanitary Officers	..	..	336	
(b) by Rodent Operative	..	..	826	—1162

Number of premises treated

			<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) by Local Authority	..	..	76	10	86
(b) by Occupiers	..	..	4	1	5
			80	11	91

Number of cases where disinfestation
carried out on more than one
occasion

..	12	1	13
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Total number of actual treatments carried
out

..	92	12	104
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Number of cases where no infestation was found .. 129
(involving 119 different properties).

The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with:—

	<i>Rats</i>		<i>Mice</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Dwelling Houses	5	5	6	7	11	12
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings) ..	52	59	—	—	52	59
Sewers	1	1	—	—	1	1
Agricultural Property ..	6	7	—	—	6	7
Schools (including canteens)	2	2	2	2	4	4
Sewage Works	2	4	—	—	2	4
Other premises	12	14	3	3	15	17
	80	92	11	12	91	104

(a) = Number of premises treated.

(b) = Number of actual treatments carried out.

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:—

Number of informal notices served in respect of:

(a) Treatments	26
(b) Structural work (proofing)	6 ———32

Number of statutory notices served Nil

Legal proceedings instituted Nil

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The disinfection of premises and/or articles was carried out in connection with the following diseases:—

Scarlet Fever	20
Tuberculosis	2
Cancer	5
Chicken Pox	2
Miscellaneous	1

Figures in connection with disinfection tend to give a false impression of the scope of work involved in the eradication of insect pests generally. In this district the so-called verminous conditions (i.e. infestation by fleas, bed bugs, lice, etc.) are very infrequently encountered, but in recent times there has been an increasing demand by the public for advice and/or assistance in dealing with insects and other pests not usually regarded as directly associated with matters of public health. In this connection whilst only one case of bed bug infestation was dealt with by the department during the year, advice and/or assistance was sought in dealing with many cases of infestation by ants, moths, wood beetles, carpet beetle, silverfish, and several other pests of home, garden, food stores, etc.

In general, the assistance given to the public in connection with the destruction of pests other than those considered to be of public

health importance, is confined mainly to advice on their identity, habits and control, where this is known, and it is only in exceptional circumstances that the work of disinfection is carried out by the department. In such cases a charge is made for the service. In the case of wasps, however, the procedure has been slightly different. The work of destroying wasps' nests within dwelling houses, where they are a nuisance to the occupants, has been undertaken within the resources of the department, and a charge of 5/- is made. During the summer of 1954 the department destroyed 35 wasps' nests and gave advice on the eradication of many more.

TABLE OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts	695
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	397
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act ..	362
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act and Petroleum Act	117
Shops Act visits and inspections	18
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	30
Visits and inspections re Rodent Control (by Sanitary Officers)	336
Administrative visits	123
Rehousing visits, etc.	382
Total visits and inspections	2460

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING 1954

Water Supply and Fittings	<i>Number of Premises</i>
Piped main supplies provided for the first time	—
Services repaired, renewed or improved	2
Storage cisterns repaired, renewed, cleansed or covered ..	—
Drainage	
Existing premises connected to L.A. sewers for the first time	2
Existing premises provided with water-carriage drainage systems to septic tanks and filters	—
Drains relaid, repaired or improved	7
Drains unstopped	59
Eaves-gutters and down pipes repaired, renewed or unstopped	3
Sinks repaired or renewed	—
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	3
Sanitary Conveniences	
New W.C.'s provided or substituted for earth closets ..	—
W.C's. repaired or renewed	4
Flushing cisterns and/or flushpipes repaired or renewed ..	2
Ventilation improved	1
Cleanliness improved	5
Other improvements	2

Miscellaneous Repairs or Improvements	<i>Number of Premises</i>
Roofs repaired or renewed	8
Damp-proof courses provided	—
Underfloor ventilation, provided or improved	—
External brickwork repaired, rendered, pointed, etc.	—
Yard paving repaired or renewed	—
Baths provided	—
Windows repaired or renewed	3
Floors repaired or renewed	1
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed	4
Stoves, ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	1
Domestic food stores provided	—
Washing coppers provided or repaired	—
Staircase handrails provided	—
Lighting and ventilation provided or improved	—
Disinfestation—vermin	1
Domestic cleansing enforced	—
Dustbins provided or renewed	5
Nuisances from keeping of animals remedied	3
Offensive accumulations removed or rendered innocuous	3
Sundry repairs and improvements	2
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Ratproofing carried out	6
Moveable Dwellings improved	4
Moveable Dwellings demolished	1

Food Premises

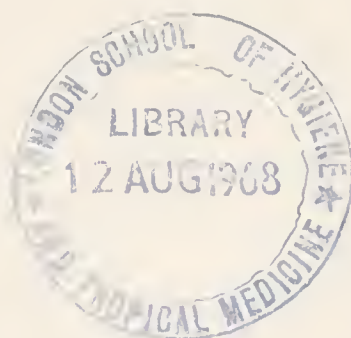
Hot water supplies provided	1
Lighting and ventilation improved	—
Floors repaired or renewed	5
Walls and ceilings repaired, re-faced or redecorated	16
Sinks provided, renewed or repaired	2
Lobbies to Sanitary Conveniences ventilated	—
Preparation rooms cleansed	5
Miscellaneous repairs or improvements	8
Food vehicles improved	1

DETAILS OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION

Number of premises in respect of which verbal notices were given	66
Number of premises where improvements were effected following verbal notices	69
Number of premises in respect of which written Informal Notices were served	29
Number of premises where improvements were effected following service of written Informal Notices	26
Number of premises in respect of which Statutory Notices were served	5
Number of premises where improvements were effected following service of Statutory Notices	5

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.



JP 2/18

